

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

This invention enables the user to change the display state of the sub-picture signal on the reproducing apparatus side arbitrarily and obtain the 5 display state of the sub-picture signal according to the user's taste. A main picture decoder decodes the compressed main picture data and outputs the main picture signal. A sub-picture decoder decodes the sub-picture data. A sub-picture processing section 10 receives the sub-picture signal decoded by the sub-picture decoder and can change the layout position and/or size of the sub-picture signal. A combining section combines the processed sub-picture signal outputted from the sub-picture processing section with the main 15 picture signal and outputs the resulting signal.